

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-14 SCCT-02 AID-20 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /150 W

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R 161436Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 310

DIA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11207

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PFOR LE IS

SUBJ: LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER INCIDENTS

1. LEBANESE ARMY G-2 LNO REPORTS ISRAELIS FIRED 65-75 MORTAR AND ARTY ROUNDS INTO LEBANESE TERRITORY NIGHT OF SEP 14-15. TWENTY-NINE RDS FELL IN VIC OF BAYT LIF (3308N-3520E), SHAQRA (3312N-3528E) AND HARIS (3310N-3523E) IN BINT JUBAYL DIST AND REMAINDER IN THE 'ARQUB NEAR KAHR HAMAM, KAHR SHUBA, RASHAYYA AL FUKHKHAR AND WADI AL KHANSA. NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE REPORTED.

2. CONCERNING ISRAELI AIR ATTACKS SEP 15, LNO SAYS AREAS AROUND HASBAYYA (3314N-3591E) AND 'AYN QINYAH (3324N-3542E) WERE HIT IN AFTERNOON RAID, IN WHICH, ACCORDING TO LNO, MAYOR OF HASBAYYA WAS KILLED AND 3 CIVS WERE WOUNDED. LNO SAYS FURTHER RAIDS AFTER DARK STRUCK AREAS AROUND AL KHURAYBAH (3320N-3540E), KUFAYR AZ ZAYT (3326N-3544E) AND MARJ AZ ZUHUR (3328N-3545E).

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NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. LNO ALSO SAYS SPORADIC ISRAELI

SHELLING CONTINUED SEP 15, WITH AREAS AROUND KAFR SHUBA, SHAB'A AND AL QAWZAH (3307N-3520E) THE TARGETS.

3. RELIABLE UNTSO SOURCE (PORTECT) REPORTS FROM EYE-WITNESSES THAT ISRAELIS COMMITTED 4 AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING AT LEAST 2 A-4'S, TO 15 SEP AFTERNOON RAID AND THAT THEY EMPLOYED BOMBS, ROCKETS AND CBU'S. SAYS 2 AIRCRAFT USING BOMBS AND CBU'S CARRIED OUT THE NIGHT ATTACK. SOURCE NOTES RAIDS CAPPED WEEK IN WHICH ILMAC HAS NOTED MARKED INCREASE IN NUMBER OF REPORTED INCIDENTS AND SHOOTINGS, WHICH IT INTERPRETS AS A SIGN OF GENERAL DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION ALONG THE BORDER. HE ADDS THAT FOLLOWING THE SHOOTING INCIDENT NEAR ILMAC OP MARWAHIN SEP 11 (USDAO BEIRUT 058311 SEP), IT WAS RELIABLY LEARNED THAT A LEBANESE ARMY UNIT HAD BEEN LOCATED ONLY ONE KM AWAY WHILE THE ACTION WAS IN PROGRESS BUT DID NOT REACT IN ANY WAY. SOURCE SAYS PERSONNEL OF HIS ORGANIZATION ENROUTE TO AND FROM THEIR PORTS VIA THE COAST ROAD SOUTH FROM TYRE (3317N-3512E) FREQUENTLY OBSERVE ARMED FEDAYEEN MOVING ABOUT FREELY.

4. COMMENT: (A) ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT ALWAYS IDENTIFY, MUCH LESS DRAW LINKS BETWEEN EACH AND EVERY INCIDENT, WE CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT MOST ISRAELI CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITY IS REACTION TO FEDAYEEN PROVOCATIONS MOUNTED FROM LEBANESE SIDE. FAILURE OF LEBANESE ARMY TO INTERVENE OR OTHERWISE REACT IS OF COURSE NOTHING NEW AND STEMS FROM FACTORS REPORTED PARAS 1 AND 2 BEIRUT 7698. WE SEE NO LIKELIHOOD THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE, DESPITE FACT THAT LATEST INCIDENTS ARE CERTAIN TO INCREASE FEAR AND DISCONTENT AMONG INHABITANTS OF LEBANESE BORDER VILLAGES AND ADD FURTHER FUEL TO GROWING ANTI-GOL CAMPAIGN BEING MOUNTED BY IMAM MUSA AS SADR ON BEHALF OF THIS COUNTRY'S LARGE SHIITE MINORITY.

(B) PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN DETERIORATING STATE OF INTERNAL SECURITY IN LEBANON AS WHOLE RECEIVED ANOTHER BLOW SEP 12, WHEN LARGE TRUCK LOADED WITH ONIONS OVERTURNED FOLLOWING BRAKE FAILURE WHILE DESCENDING WESTERN PORTION OF DAMASCUS-BEIRUT HIGHWAY. TRUCK'S CONTENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ADDITION TO ONIONS SPILLED ACROSS ROAD, PROVED TO INCLUDE TWIN-40 MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN COMPLETE WITH SOME 20 CASES OF AMMO PLUS OTHER ASSORTED LIGHT WEAPONS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, TRUCK--WHICH BORE FAKE KUWAITI LICENSE PLATES--HAS SINCE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO UNSPECIFIED FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATION. ITS DRIVER FLED SCENE OF ACCIDENT AND HAS NOT BEEN FOUND SINCE. ACCORDING TO GOL SECURITY FORCES, "INVESTIGATION

IS STILL IN PROGRESS."

GODLEY

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